COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

December 21, 2016

Mr. Brian E. Kamoie Assistant Administrator, Grants Program Director Federal Emergency Management Agency Federal Emergency Management Agency 400 C Street SW, 3N Washington, DC 20472-3635

Re: Vincennes Fire Department AFG Grant Application – DHS-16-GPD-044-000-99

Dear Mr. Kamoie:

As Senator from the State of Indiana, I am concerned that our communities have the equipment necessary to fully address the needs of the citizens they serve. I encourage a favorable response to the Vincennes Fire Department (VFD) application for funding through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. VFD wants to add an interactive Computer Aided Dispatch/Mobile Data Terminal (CAD/MDT) system to its operation in order to streamline its communications.

The City of Vincennes is the county seat of Knox County, and its fire department employs 38 career firefighters who are responsible for protecting 18,000 residents. Vincennes is home to Indiana's oldest university as well as a wide range of manufacturing, industrial and service industries.

A CAD/MDT system is important to VFD's ability to serve and protect the community. Over the last several years, the size of the VFD has been reduced due to budget cuts. In order to meet NFPA compliance standards, off-duty personnel are called upon to respond to structure fires when necessary. The use of a CAD/MDT system to communicate will improve the accuracy and efficiency of dispatch.

I encourage a favorable review of the Vincennes Fire Department application for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in accordance with U.S. law and public policy. I would appreciate being notified when a decision is made. Questions and announcements can be directed to my office by contacting Marianne Black at Marianne_Black@donnelly.senate.gov or by telephone at (317) 226-5555.

Sincerely,

Joe Donnelly

United States Senator